

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 474  
By Walley

A RESOLUTION to continue the special joint committee created to study and to coordinate implementation of the executive branch's strategies to solve the many problems associated with the drainage of streams and rivers and the preservation of wetlands in West Tennessee.

WHEREAS, House Joint Resolution No. 428 of the 98th General Assembly created a special joint committee to provide the necessary leadership to implement the Governor's advisory committees' recommendations and strategies relative to the effective and environmentally safe drainage of streams and rivers and the preservation and restoration of wetlands in West Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, House Joint Resolution No. 108 of the Ninety-Ninth General Assembly continued the important mandate of the committee; and

WHEREAS, the special joint committee has worked closely with the steering committee and the technical working group of the West Tennessee Tributaries Project to accomplish the project's worthy mission plan; and

WHEREAS, the West Tennessee Tributaries Restoration Demonstration Project includes four (4) components:

- (1) To restore channelized river reach and treat "critical sub-watersheds" (Project 1);

(2) To restore channelized sub-watershed stream reach and treat uplands  
(Project 2);

(3) To monitor on site and system results; and

(4) To reformulate the West Tennessee Tributaries Project; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the special joint committee be afforded the opportunity to monitor the progress of the restoration demonstration project and to provide input and expertise to the reformulation of the West Tennessee Tributaries Project; and

WHEREAS, although the special joint committee has worked assiduously at its appointed task, the two environmental issues that are subject of this study are extremely complex, and the proposed solutions to the problems confronting the West Tennessee Tributaries Project are indeed worthy of ongoing, exhaustive study; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the people of Tennessee for the mandate of this special joint committee to be extended; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the special joint committee created by HJR No. 428 of the 98th General Assembly and continued by HJR No. 108 of the 99th General Assembly to study the drainage of streams and rivers and the restoration of wetlands in West Tennessee is hereby continued for a period of one (1) year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall continue its mandate to:

(1) facilitate implementation of the Tennessee Wetlands Conservation Strategy, developed in concert with the Tennessee Farm Bureau and Department of Agriculture;

(2) facilitate completion of the West Tennessee Tributaries Project as developed by the West Tennessee Tributaries Steering Committee;

(3) address funding needs and develop funding mechanisms for the in-lieu-of-tax payments to local governments associated with the wetlands acquisition program;

(4) investigate the feasibility and advisability of the state purchasing “swamped out” farm land at above fair market value through the auspices of the state’s wetland acquisition fund;

(5) propose legislative initiatives to assist in bringing about solutions to the numerous problems associated with the drainage of rivers and streams and the preservation and restoration of wetlands in West Tennessee; and

(6) study the operations and make recommendations relative to the Hatchie River Maintenance Crew and the West Tennessee River Basin Authority.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the membership of the committee shall remain as constituted by HJR No. 428 of the 98th General Assembly; provided, that the members thereof are duly elected members of the General Assembly. Vacancies shall be filled by the respective Speakers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall report its final findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the One Hundredth General Assembly no later than February 1, 1997, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.

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